

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 16, 1891, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (Washington) April 16th, 1891. My darling Alec:

This time twenty-four hours ago you were here by me on your sofa. Now I sit here, but except for Beckie, the cushions and Mr. McCurdy's papers the sofa is empty, and in its emptiness reminds of you, speeding far away into the Northern darkness.

Already the house has settled into the usual strange quiet that broods over it in your absence. Gardiner and Mr. McCurdy do their best to relieve it, but they cannot succeed as you do, I was mad with Mr. Hitz for staying longer with you than I your wife did. I wanted to be the last to say Goodbye. The poor man is always saying and doing exactly the wrong thing for me out of pure goodness of heart.

Gardiner has seemed possessed of a spirit of restlessness today and I have done little else but wear myself out attending on his whims and fancies. I am tired out with just these few days of a little of his company,,nevertheless like the moth, I am more and more attracted by him and have begged and obtained permission to keep him one day longer. Only one for Mr. McCurdy is to occupy his room tomorrow. This seemed the best way of getting a man in the house. Delia has got the front room downstairs all fitted up for a parlor, and naturally she would not like Charles to put up his bed there. I did not tell you at the time, but there has been trouble about this very thing and I do not want a repetition. There can be no objection to Mr. McCurdy's staying here while Miss True remains, and when she goes Day and I are going to Twin Oaks. 2 Mr. McCurdy and I went to the printers this afternoon and remained there a solid hour just settling on the type for notification of membership, and of the constitution and certificate. In the Constitution I discovered an omission which might have made some trouble. There was an elaborate

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arrangement for the appointment of Directors but no mention of their length of service, so that for all that appeared they would have been permanently formed in three classes to serve terms of one, two and three years each. I took the proof to Papa and they inserted the necessary words.

Day has distinguished herself by her definition of the word step in stepmother etc., she says it means some one who has stepped into the first wife's place.

I really do not know what to do about the Ballachey letter. A short visit would not do, and his brother's families would be the proper places to send his daughter to, I do not feel that either your Mother or I would be a safe guardian for this young girl. Mr. Ballachey would of course make the best of it for his daughter, and I cannot feel sure that Edith is entirely guiltless in the matter, she may be, but both your Mother's and my opportunities for forming correct judgements of character and of watching our guests are very limited. And then there is Day — No — I do not think Mr. Ballachey wants anything except a position on Beinn Bhreagh. I feel so sure Mamma would agree that I will not show her the letter. I hope you are working on Patent Office paper.

Lovingly always, Mabel.